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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/040,518	03/17/1998	COSTAS N. KARATZAS	06632/011001	1912

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EXAMINER

FALK, ANNE MARIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

32

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/040,518	KARATZAS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Anne-Marie Falk, Ph.D.	1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 22-58 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 37 and 38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 22-36 and 54-58 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 39-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 March 1998 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 1632

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed April 18, 2002 (Paper No. 24) has been entered. Claims 5 and 13 were amended.

The amendment filed April 4, 2003 (Paper No. 30) has been entered. Claims 1-5 and 7-21 have been cancelled. Claims 22-53 have been newly added.

The amendment filed June 4, 2003 (Paper No. 31) has been entered. Claims 25, 26, and 42-44 have been amended. Claims 54-58 have been newly added.

Accordingly, Claims 22-58 are pending in the instant application.

Newly submitted claims 37 and 38 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: Claims 37 and 38 are directed to a mammary epithelial cell, whereas the claims originally presented are directed to a nucleic acid molecule, a transgenic animal, and a method for producing a biofilament.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 37 and 38 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Accordingly, Claims 22-36 and 39-58 are examined herein.

The following rejections are reiterated or newly applied and constitute the complete set of rejections being applied to the instant application. Rejections and objections not reiterated from the previous office action are hereby withdrawn.

Art Unit: 1632

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 18, 2002 (Paper No. 24) has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claims 41-53 are objected to for depending from claims withdrawn from consideration. Claims 41-53 depend from Claim 37 which has been withdrawn from consideration for the reasons discussed herein above. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 39, 40, and 42-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants are referred to the final guidelines on written description published January 5, 2001 in the Federal Register at Volume 66, Number 4, pp. 1099-1111 (also available at www.uspto.gov).

Vas-Cath Inc. V. Mahurkar, 19 USPQ2d 1111, clearly states that "applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the invention. The invention is, for purposes of 'written description' inquiry, whatever is claimed" (see

Art Unit: 1632

page 1117). Applicant is reminded that *Vas-Cath* makes clear that the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. 112 is severable from its enablement provision.

Claim 39 is directed to a female ruminant comprising mammary tissue cells that comprise the nucleic acid molecule of claim 22 (a nucleic acid encoding a biofilament polypeptide), wherein the ruminant secretes a biofilament polypeptide into milk. Claims 40 and 42-53 are directed to methods of using the female ruminant of Claim 39 to produce a biofilament polypeptide. The claims encompass a female ruminant produced by *in vivo* somatic cell gene transfer. However, *in vivo* somatic cell gene transfer is not described or contemplated in the specification. The specification only describes a transgenic ruminant comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 22. As understood in the art, a transgenic animal comprises a transgene within its genome and the transgene is present in all somatic and germ cells of the animal. The specification fails to describe the entire genus of female ruminants comprising mammary tissue cells that comprise the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 22 as claimed. The specification does not teach what distinguishing features are shared by members of this genus. In analyzing whether the written description requirement is met for genus claims, it is first determined whether a representative number of species have been described by their complete structure. In the instant case, only transgenic ruminants comprising a transgene within the genome of all somatic and germ cells are described by their complete structure. Next then, it is determined whether a representative number of species have been sufficiently described by other relevant identifying characteristics. In this case, although the claims cover animals produced by *in vivo* somatic cell gene transfer, no such species have been described by relevant identifying characteristics. This limited information is not deemed sufficient to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that Applicants were in possession of the entire genus of female ruminants covered by the claims, at the time the application was filed. Thus, it is concluded that the written description requirement is not satisfied for the claimed animals and methods of using said animals.

Art Unit: 1632

Conclusion

Claims 22-36 and 54-58 are allowable.

The Declaration of Dr. Karatzas, filed April 18, 2002 (Paper No. 24) has been fully considered.

The evidence presented in the Declaration is considered to demonstrate enablement for transgenic ruminants comprising a transgene as set forth in the claims, wherein the transgene is present within the genome of all somatic and germ cells of the ruminant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anne-Marie Falk whose telephone number is (703) 306-9155. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays from 10:00 AM to 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds, can be reached on (703) 305-4051. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-4242.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the patent analyst, William Phillips, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3482.

Anne-Marie Falk, Ph.D.

Anne-Marie Falk
ANNE-MARIE FALK, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER